

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

/058 W

----- 050658

R 121350Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 038

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA POUCH

/AMEMBASSY DOHA 125

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, EAD

SUBJECT: PRIMIN TO VISIT GULF SOON

REF: (A) CAIRO 972, (B) DOHA 153

1. NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HAS YET BEEN MADE, BUT NEWS IS LEAKING IN CAIRO THAT PM SALIM WILL ACCOMPANY SADAT TO SAUDI ARABIA ON FEBRUARY 21, AND THEN PEEL OFF, WITH SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISORS, TO MAKE HIS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FINANCIAL PILGRIMAGE TO ABU DHABI AND, PERHPAS, QATAR. (WE HAVE BEEN TOLD HE WILL PEEL OFF FEB 23 TO BEING TOUR OF GULF STATES.)

2. MONEY, AS USUAL, IS IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY IN EGYPT, AND WILL CERTAINLY BE HIGH ON LIST OF SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED, BY BOTH SADAT AND SALIM, AT EVERY STOP. IT APPEARS - THUS FAR AT LEAST - THAT GOE WILL HAVE ENOUGH GOOD SENSE (AND GOOD TASTE) TO DOWNPLAY BEGGING BOWL ASPECT OF TRIP, AND THEREBY

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AVOID NEGATIVE REACTION THAT WAS PROBABLY PARTIAL CAUSE OF

COLLAPSE OF EARLIER SCHEDULE. EGYPTIANS NEED AND EXPECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM RICH ARABS, AND WILL MOST CERTAINLY RECEIVE FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT FILLING AIR WITH FIGURES AS TO VAST AMOUNTS EXPECTED IS EVIDENTLY NOT BEST WAY TO ENCOURAGE DONATIONS.

3. ON BASIS FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN, GOE IS EITHER FLAT BROKE AGAIN OR VERY CLOSE TO IT. DEFAULTS AND ARREARAGES ARE AGAIN IN EFFECT, AND THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE RELIEF IN SIGHT. MONEY RECEIVED LAST YEAR HAS BEEN TOTALLY UTILIZED, AND THERE ARE NO OUTSTANDING BALANCES OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE OTHER THAN \$50 MILLION REMAINING OF \$200 PROMISED BY UAE IN FALL. AMOUNT OF THAT SIZE BY ITSELF, WHEN MEASURED AGAINST EGYPT'S NEEDS, IS HARDLY SIGNIFICANT.

4. UNLESS SADAT-SALIM ARE RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR FUND-RAISING EFFORTS, EGYPT FACES A VERY DIFFICULT TIME IN NEAR FUTURE. WHATEVER HELP IS RECEIVED, IT WILL CERTAINLY FALL SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS: SALIM EARLIER SPOKE OF \$4 BILLION NEEDED THIS YEAR.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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